

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 14963 231017Z

67-R  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 W  
----- 098516

R 230838Z OCT 75  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8786  
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 14963

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, RP  
SUBJECT: AP REPORT ON AID TO PHILIPPINES

REF: STATE 250514

1. ALL MORNING PAPERS OCTOBER 22 CARRIED AP STORY AND ONE, TIMES JOURNAL, HEADLINED IT. CHARGE RECEIVED CALLS FROM BOTH ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REYES AND ACTING DFA SECRETARY COLLANTES EXPRESSING CONCERN. CHARGE REASSURED THEM ALONG LINES REFTEL AND PAO PASSED ON SAME WORD TO INFORMATION SECRETARY TATAD. TATAD THEN PERSONALLY CALLED ALL NEWSPAPERS ADVISING THEM THAT STORY INACCURATE AND TELLING THEM TO CONTACT U.S. EMBASSY. AS RESULT HIS CALL, OUR PRESS OFFICER SPENT ALL AFTERNOON DENYING AP STORY.

2. OCTOBER 23 PRESS CARRIED DENIALS WITH RERUN OF AP STORY POINTING OUT ADVANTAGES ACCRUING TO INDONESIA. HOWEVER, COLUMNISTS IN BULLETIN AND DAILY EXPRESS (WHOSE COLUMNS PREPARED AND RUNOFF BEFORE DENIALS) REACTED STRONGLY TO ALLEGED CUTTING OF AID. VALENCIA IN EXPRESS SAID WITHHOLDING OF AID MEANT U.S. PREPARED TO PAY RENT, WHICH HE HEARTILY APPROVED. IT WOULD ALSO ENHANCE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE IMAGE. INDONESIA, HE NOTED, IS GETTING DOUBLE ITS SHARE BECAUSE IT IS - AS ANTI-PRC NATION - "NEW GOOD BOY OF THE AMERICANS". BEGORNIA IN BULLETIN CONCLUDED THAT AID CUT OFF IS PRELUDE TO U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM WESTERN PACIFIC. THIS SHOULD BE NO CAUSE FOR RECRIMI-  
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NATION, HE SAID, BUT WITH DISAPPEARANCE OF "SPECIAL

RELATIONS" PHILIPPINES CAN NOW MOVE WITH "MORE AGGRESSIVE-  
NESS IN PURGING OUT INEQUITIES CONTAINED IN ALL ECONOMIC  
AND MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS WITH U.S". BATALLA, ALSO  
IN BULLETIN, DOUBTS U.S. WITHDRAWING BUT SUGGESTS THAT  
PHILIPPINES MIGHT DO WELL TO CEASE TAKING AID FROM U.S.

3. COMMENT: DENIAL OF AP STORY OBVIOUSLY USEFUL BUT IT  
HAS BY NO MEANS LAID STORY TO REST. FILIPINOS ALWAYS PRE-  
PARED TO BELIEVE THERE'S FIRE WHERE THERE IS SMOKE AND  
THEY PROBABLY SUSPECT AP STORY REFLECTS SOME ELEMENT OF  
U.S. THINKING. ASIDE FROM RESENTING THOUGHT - EVEN IF  
DENIED - THAT U.S. MIGHT ATTEMPT TO BLUDGEON THEM INTO  
AGREEMENT, THEY NO DOUBT ALSO TAKE UMBRAGE AT  
INDICATION U.S. NOW FAVORING INDONESIA, WHICH HAS NO  
U.S. BASES.  
SULLIVAN

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